



## 2014 Bloomington Arts Commission Commissioner Profiles



### **Alain Barker (Council Appointment – 1/16)**

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Appointed to the Commission in 2008, Alain Barker is currently with Project Jumpstart at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Previously, he spent ten years as the Executive Director of the Bloomington Early Music Festival (BLEMF.) Taking leadership of BLEMF in the fall of 1994, Barker transformed the festival from a small collection of concerts performed by local musicians into a festival of national significance.

Having lived and worked on three continents (Africa, Europe, and North America), Barker brings a deep appreciation of cultural diversity in the arts to his work. Barker has also worked as a consultant to the Garth Newel Music Center in Virginia, as contractor and orchestra manager for the Bloomington Chamber Singers, agent, organizer and publicist for numerous local concert series and artists, manager and performer for three international tours by Aguavá New Music Studio, and manager for two US tours of the Legêne, Kuijken, Gibbons Chamber Trio.



### **Martina Celerin (Council Appointment – 1/15)**

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Martina Celerin earned her doctoral degree in plant sciences from the University of Western Ontario and found herself in Bloomington by way of a postdoctoral position as a molecular geneticist in the Biology Department at Indiana University. In 2002 Martina decided to transition from science back to her roots as an artist; her current medium is fiber. By combining her experiences with 2-D art with needle felting and other fiber techniques, she has been able to push the dimensional limits of wall art and create weaving felting fusions that are 3D tapestries. Martina is actively involved with

Bloomington's Fourth Street Festival of Art and Craft as president, as well as the BEAD Strategic Planning Committee, the Bloomington Spinners and Weavers Guild, and the Trashion-Refashion Show Committee. She lives in Bloomington with her husband, Jim Drummond, a faculty in Biochemistry at Indiana University, and their two sons.



### **Jan Grant (Mayoral Appointment – 1/17) Chair**

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Jan Grant received her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the IU School of Music (now Jacobs School of Music) and a Masters of Arts in Arts Administration from IU's Business School. After 12 years in arts administration positions on the east coast, Jan returned to Bloomington in 1992. Jan has served on the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation Board for



## 2014 Bloomington Arts Commission Commissioner Profiles

6 years, one year as chair and is an alumna of the Leadership Bloomington/Monroe County (LBMC); her LBMC project committee founded a middle school leadership program for Monroe County public and private schools. Jan has volunteered for a variety of arts and non-profit charitable organizations for special projects and fundraising activities. She currently works with her husband, David E. Lawler, in his private dental office and in their Center for Sound Sleep practice.



### **Sally Gaskill (Council Appointment – 1/14)**

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Sally Gaskill is a life-long arts administrator and musician. She was appointed director of the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) in 2012, following four years as associate director. SNAAP ([snaap.indiana.edu](http://snaap.indiana.edu)) investigates the educational experiences and career paths of arts graduates nationally, having surveyed over 100,000 arts alumni since 2008.

On the national level, Sally is a board member of Arts Schools Network, an arts education organization for arts-focused K-12 schools. She is a frequent speaker at cultural policy conferences. A past member of Americans for the Arts' State Arts Action Council and past president of the Indiana Coalition for the Arts, she remains active in arts advocacy on the local, state and national levels. Locally she is a WTIU community advisory board member, Cardinal Stage Company founding board member (now retired), Bloomington Rotary Club program chair, and chair of the Monroe County Public Library's Power of Words author event. She is a classically trained musician and sings with Voces Novae in Bloomington. She has lived in Italy and England, where she studied organ and harpsichord. Sally received a B.A. in History from Colorado College and an M.A. in Arts Management from American University.



### **Abby Henkel (Mayoral Appointment – 1/16)**

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Abby Henkel is the Digital Media Coordinator for the Monroe County YMCA, co-directs the Bloomington PRIDE Film Festival with her partner, Sarah Perfetti and sings with the Bloomington Chamber Singers. Henkel moved to Bloomington in 2009 and earned her MA in Arts Administration from IU in 2011. Before that, she earned her BA in Music from Earlham College in 2008 and took a year to volunteer for Heifer International and work for Girls Inc. of Indianapolis.



## 2014 Bloomington Arts Commission Commissioner Profiles

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### **Peter Jacobi (Mayoral Appointment – 1/16)**

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Jacobi has served on the Bloomington Arts Commission since 1996. Prior, he served nine-and-a-half years as a commissioner on the Indiana Arts Commission, three of those as chair. Professionally, Jacobi is an emeritus professor in the School of Journalism at Indiana University and former professor and associate dean of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

His professional journalistic background spreads across print and broadcast fields: as arts critic and writer for various newspapers, including The Chicago Daily News, The Christian Science Monitor, and the Hollister Newspaper chain in north suburban Chicago; as editor of a magazine, The Music Magazine/Musical Courier, and freelance writer for others; as news writer, assignment editor, and on-air reporter for radio and television, including ABC and NBC News. Jacobi's professional experience also includes the vice presidency of Jack Hilton, Inc., a New York media training and speech coaching firm, and he continues to consult with corporate and institutional clients on communications issues and skills. Jacobi currently serves as music columnist and critic for the Bloomington Herald-Times. He continues to teach arts criticism and reporting and magazine reporting for the School of Journalism.



### **Jean Kautt (Mayoral Appointment – 1/16)**

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Jean was appointed to the Arts Commission in 2011. In addition to her commission work, she serves on the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association, the BEAD Steering Committee, and coordinates the BloomingArts Series for Bloomingfoods. Jean volunteers with the Lotus Foundation and has been the Fourth Street Festival site manager since 2007. Recently, Jean served as a 2012 Bloomington Photography Club juror.

Jean's professional career was in fashion industry sales and marketing before moving to Bloomington in 1998. Currently, she is the Member Services Coordinator for Bloomingfoods, managing education and outreach, administrating donations and fundraising programs, and scheduling interviews and events for visiting speakers and authors.



### **Francesca Sobrer (Mayoral Appointment – 1/14)**

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Francesca Sobrer has been involved with the arts since she can remember. She grew up on Nantucket Island, MA, and was educated at Smith College in Northampton, MA, where after graduating with a degree in theater she worked as an arts administrator, coordinating Special Events for the UMASS Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA, and for the American Repertory Theatre,



## 2014 Bloomington Arts Commission Commissioner Profiles

Cambridge, MA. After moving to Indiana in 1991, she furthered her education with teaching degrees from IU and a Masters in Secondary Education from Ball State. In Bloomington she has been active mostly with the theater scene. Since 1999, Francesca has been the director of the theater program at BHSN, where she teaches and performs the myriad duties of arts administration: coordinating publicity, fundraising for special projects (including taking students to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2008). She has performed in various productions in town, mostly with the BPP. A past member of the Bloomington Area Arts Council (2005-07), Francesca is thrilled to be living and working in the community of Bloomington that recognizes that Art matters.



### **Lynn Schwartzberg (Council Appointment – 1/14)**

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Lynn Schwartzberg has served on the BAC since 2007. Lynn is currently on the Advisory Boards of WTIU, WFIU, IVY Tech John Waldron Arts Center and on the BEAD Steering Committee. Additionally, Lynn serves as the lay representative from WTIU to the national Advocacy organization, APTS. During the annual Lotus Festival, Lynn is on two planning committees and manages the Festival Store.

When not officially serving on boards and committees, Lynn volunteers for the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, Lotus, WTIU and WFIU. She is an avid baker and teaches cooking classes throughout the state. In addition to her role as a certified barbeque judge from the Kansas City Barbeque Society, she is a food columnist for the Bloomington Herald-Times.



### **Paul Sturm (Council Appointment – 1/15)**

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Paul Sturm has served on the BAC since June, 2011. His other volunteer duties include serving as Contributing Editor of The Ryder magazine, as a member of the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center Advisory Board and the BEAD Steering Committee, and as a volunteer for Lotus Education and Arts Foundation. Paul was an active Bloomington performer and promoter from 1974-1988, and returned to Bloomington in 2007. He is currently Director of Development for Discovery Park at Purdue University.





## 2014 Bloomington Arts Commission Commissioner Profiles



### **Susan Sandberg (Council Liaison)**

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Susan Sandberg has been an at-large member of the Bloomington City Council since 2007, serving as Council President in 2008 and 2011. She serves as the Council liaison for the Bloomington Arts Council and the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth. She has been a long-time supporter and advisory member for the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District, and happily supports the arts in Bloomington as an avid audience member and performer with the ukulele band, The UkeTones. Regarding visual arts, Susan lives vicariously through her artist sister, Sarah, who teaches art in Johnson County (Indian Creek Middle School) and is the stellar prop master for the Cardinal Stage Company. Susan is an alumna of the IU Singing Hoosiers from back in the day!

### **Craig Widen (Mayoral Appointment – 1/17)**

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Craig Widen represented the Chamber of Commerce during his first 2 ½ terms on the BAC and currently serves as a Mayoral appointment. Widen has been the owner and operator of Tutto Bene Wine Cafe and Art Gallery since 2004. Tutto Bene's business model has focused on integrating the arts into all aspects of business operations including employing artists and musicians, featuring (and compensating) musicians for performances; and establishing an adjacent gallery with an ongoing schedule of exhibits and special events. Service to the arts is a Widen family value: wife Marci is an active arts volunteer and son Jason was on the board of Lotus Education and Arts Foundation and is currently the producer of several world music festivals and other music outreach.

### **Miah Michaelsen (Staff Liaison)**

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As Assistant Director of Economic Development for the Arts, Michaelsen's responsibilities include leading management of BEAD (Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District), serving as a liaison with the City's Arts Commission, working with artists and community arts organizations to promote the arts as economic development and coordinating public arts projects in BEAD and throughout the city. She is on the boards of Visit Bloomington and Downtown Bloomington and is on the Advisory Board of the Ivy-Tech John Waldron Arts Center. She also has served as juror and panelist for numerous arts agencies, including the Indianapolis Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and has presented at numerous conferences on topics such as cultural district development and arts management.